

FAIRISLE TIMES

December 2020

Issue No. 8

The Newsletter of Fairisle Junior School

Test and Trace during the Christmas Holiday

Up to and including the 24th December, if your child develops symptoms **within** 48 hours of last being in school **and** tests positive for coronavirus, you must alert the school by calling me on 07874 012280. I will then identify your child's close contacts in school and inform them to self-isolate by phone. Please do not use this number for any other reason. Thank you very much.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more** than 48 hours since being in school, please call and inform me. However, the school will not be expected to identify close contacts. You should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

This means that, if you do not hear from us by the end of the 24th December, you will definitely not be receiving a call from the school to ask your child to self-isolate for the rest of the holiday period.

If you travel overseas during the Christmas holiday and need to self isolate on your return, please contact the school **before** Friday 18th December to give us full details of your destination and the date of your intended return to the United Kingdom.



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Termly Reading Awards — Congratulations

On Monday this week, I spent most of the day signing the children's planners and awarding reading prizes. It was a great day. I used the community room as my base and laid out about 500 across the tables for the children to choose.

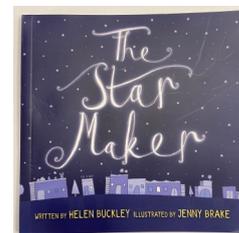
Gloves and masks at the ready, I called for the children who had filled their reading page (or will fill the page before the weekend) from each class separately and they walked around the room to choose their book, which I then signed over to them. During the day I awarded nearly 200 books.



Very well done to all the children who received their prize, and we'll do it all again next term!

Best Wishes from Lordshill Church

This week we were sent a present for each child in our school from The Revd. Chris Knights and all the team at Lordshill Church. He sent us a short video which we showed to the children this week. Please join us all in wishing Chris and his team a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021. If your child was absent this week, they will receive their book in January.



Reverse Advent Calendar at FJS

Thank you very much indeed for donated our Reverse Advent Calendar over the past couple of weeks. This year has seen unprecedented use of the food banks in Southampton and it is wonderful to be able to support them in our own way. The representatives from Southampton Scratch came to school yesterday to pick up our donations and it's safe to say they were absolutely blown away with your generosity. Thank you all.



Our school will re-open on Monday 4th January. Please keep an eye on the news!

Please
Park



Considerately

Staffing Update

Firstly, we send our congratulations and best wishes to Laura Milford and her partner, whose baby Harry was born on Monday this week. He weighed in at 7lb 14oz.

Today we say farewell to two colleagues: Anna Ward leaves us to move to a post in Salisbury and Kayleigh Dolman leaves to take up a post nearer her home on the other side of the city. Both colleagues leave with our very best wishes for the future as well as our thanks for their hard work and commitment to our children and our school.

Christmas Jumper Day 2020

The children looked brilliant in their Christmas jumpers on Wednesday this week. In fact, just for a short while during the day, some of us even forgot about the pandemic and things looked vaguely normal! There were loads of (naughty) elves, reindeer and Santas around our school and we raised a fantastic £155.98 for Save the Children. Thank you very much for your support.



Thank You...

As we near the end of the calendar year and a truly bizarre week, I usually write to you to thank you for your support in general. This year, we all owe you our thanks more than ever, so let me offer it now.

We all recognise that, in sending your children to our school, you are putting your trust in all of us, both to care for and to educate them. This year, this couldn't be more true. So thank you for continuing to trust us through this difficult time, particularly when there must have been times of real worry for you, just as there has been for us.

Thank you for your patience at the start of all this when we found out that we would be closing with just a few days notice. We had a real challenge on our hands working out what an extended school closure would look like, but we were also very aware that every delay in sharing information with you was adding to the challenges you faced in changing your plans and arranging childcare.

Thank you to those of you who continued to serve in frontline roles, while entrusting your children to our care. You must have worried that you were putting them at risk to allow you to go to work. Know that we were grateful both for your faith and your contribution to tackling the pandemic in its most worrying phase.

Thank you to those of you who, with little warning, made arrangements to keep your children at home. Very few teachers would opt to home educate their own children: we know what a challenge that is. Thank you for your tolerance while we sorted out home learning, tried to balance the needs of everyone and continue to keep all our children safe in unprecedented times.

Thank you for reading our emails, watching our videos and listening to our messages, while all around us was filled with all sorts of contradictory information in the press and on social media. Often, we found out about big announcements at the same time as you, watching the prime minister and his experts on the evening broadcasts. Too often, we then had to wait for the detail to help us, and you, to understand what it meant in reality. Only yesterday I read about the possibility of secondary schools starting later next term.

Thank you for all your support in returning the children to school at the beginning of this term. Every headteacher worried how things would turn out in late August, especially as we prepared the building and our new play space for the children's return, but we also relied on your support to make it all work.

Thank you for bearing with us through the last term, without some of the traditional events and changes to others! In some ways it has felt harder than ever to be together as a community but, in other ways, the pandemic has highlighted the importance of working together as we do. Hopefully, you'll agree that throughout 2020 we have worked with you to provide the children with the safest, most enjoyable and best education possible. And we all look forward to doing the same in 2021.

Finally I would like to thank every single one of my staff for working so hard under such bizarre conditions and for their support, commitment and professionalism throughout this year. Oh, and one last thing: have the happiest possible Christmas holiday, keep well, stay safe and love your family. PH

